(b) if so, the reasons for which he has an nounced this stani from the rampart !f Red Fort in his Independence Day spe year; and

(c) what is the r.t'itude of Gove of India today on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF ST ATI IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (c) It is a fact that Pakistan continues to b; in un-authorised occupation of a part of Jimmu & Kashmir. While referring to frequent state-ments by Pak leaders about Kashmir b the unfinished task, the Prime Minister in his Independence Day address of 19' 4 had stated that there is only one unfinished task and that is the restoration of Pak ouupied part of Kashmir to India. The effort of the Govt, of India is to resolve this proble n, and other outstanding issues of difference; with Pakistan, by peaceful bilateral dii the spirit of Shimla Agreement of 1972, i i continued efforts of Pakistan to try tc nationalise the issue relating to Jamrr.u & Kashmir.

Bomb Blast in Outskirts of Jammu

2600. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a power-ful bomb blast in a private bus that exploded o November, 1994 at the outskirts of J.immu City;

(b) if so, whether eight pilgrims, including a child, bound for Vaishno Devi were killed and 40 others sustained injury;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ii A esti-gate into t< if the blast and to se; that incidents of this nature do not recur in future; and

(d) what is the com Hint proposed to be paid by Government to the kith of those affected by t he incide

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S HRJ BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) No such incident took place on 29-11-1994. However, on 28-11-1994, an explosion took place in a passenger bus going from Jammu to Katra, resulting in the instant death of 8 persons and injuries to 44 others. Tr/o of the injured later succumbed to their injuries.

(c) Efforts are on to trace the culprits be hind tlje bomb blast. Intensified patrolling by the police/security forces, establishment of ck posts on routes/roads coming to Jammu, surprise checks of buses, checking of loading, launching of public awareness compaign and apprehension of anti-social jspected trans-border smugglers are some of the steps being taken to avoid rrence of such incidents.

(d) Ex-gr itia relief of Rupees 1 lakh each has been announced by the State Government i of persons who were killed, and Rs. 50 >se injured.

Proposal From JKLF Leader on Kashmir Issue

2601. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Members of Parliament have received copies of an appeal made by the self-* J Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Libe it to the People of India, sent from London, giving proposals regarding solution to the so-called Kashmir problem; and

(b) whethar Government have also recei-similar proposals from the JKLF and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of letters purported to have i the self-styled Chair. man of the JKLF from Pakistan. It is not considered necessary to react to the same.

Mercenaries Operating in Kashmir

2602. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether mercenaries of dilfere.it countries have been operating in Kashmir since the onset of anti-India Militancy in 1990.

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of countries to which these mercenaries belong;